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SALT & LIGHT COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER



The Community Church of Sebastopol United Church of Christ 707.823.2484 www.uccseb.org office@uccseb.org

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Lead Minister Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent

Associate Minister of Faith Formation Rev. Lacey Hunter

Associate				
Minister of Congregational				
Care				
Rev. Rachel Knuth				

Minister of Music Rev. Brian Plaugher

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Gene Nelson

> Handbell Ensemble Director Karna Roa

Keyboardist J. Althea

Congregational Administrator Becca Emerson

Bookkeeper Jennifer Halleck

Custodian Maria Mojica





By Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent, Lead Minister

In 1999, I experienced my first pledge drive as a new minister. Quickly, I realized how ill prepared I was to talk about money in church. I was not even ready to make a generous gift to the church I'd been called to serve. A recent seminary graduate in my mid-20's, I had accumulated debt and no assets. Over time, and by way of an often awkward process, I learned some things about money and the church:

- Money, like water, stays life-giving if it is allowed to flow rather than stagnate. We can let our resources flow in the direction of the things that matter most to us.
- Even though it's hard, we need to find ways to talk about money in church. Jesus knew that our relationship with money is intimately connected to our relationships with God and neighbor, which is why he spoke about wealth and possessions more than any other topic save the Kingdom of God.
- We should give generously because that's who we aspire to be as God's people, grateful for God's love and generous in response to that love.
- To make a pledge and regularly give money to the church, along with other organizations we cherish, can be a spiritual practice that transforms lives, including our own.

This fall, "Finding the Way" is the theme of our annual Pledge Drive. In the Gospel of John, Jesus tells his disciples he is going away, referring to his death on the cross. Alarmed and sad, Thomas asks Jesus, "If you're leaving us, how will we know the way?" Jesus responds, "I *am* the Way, and the Truth, and the Life." For the church, "The Way" is not a set of actions or beliefs, but a relationship with Jesus.

The business of the church is to nurture relationships and transform lives. When we give generously, each of us out of our own circumstance, we are Finding the Way to: • Be the church God is calling us to be.

- Be the church God is calling us to be.
 Support our church's ministries in the coming version of the coming
- Support our church's ministries in the coming year and beyond.
- Expand our mission giving on behalf of vulnerable neighbors.
- Fund our full and half-time Associate Minister positions.

Sustain our children's and youth ministries for the next decade.

- Increase the number of Adult Education offerings.
- Deepen our congregation's culture of care.

"Finding the Way" isn't automatic. It will require prayer, trust, gratitude, and resilience, all of which are God's gifts to us in this season of audacious generosity. Be the church. Let your resources flow. Build relationships. Transform lives.



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WORSHIP & LETTER FROM PASTOR LACEY



Sunday Worship happens 10:30 am in the Sanctuary Nursery Care available for newborns through Kindergarteners

October 6 – World Communion Sunday

Today we gather for multi-generational worship and celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion in relationship with the global church. Rev. Benjamin Broadbent, Lead Minister, preaches a sermon entitled "Stoking Hope, Risking Kindness."

October 13 – 2020 Pledge Drive Kick-Off Sunday

Today we kick off the public phase of our church's pledge drive in support of our 2020 local church ministry and wider mission. The Handbell Ensemble provides worship music and Pastor Benjamin preaches a sermon on Luke 17: 11 – 19, "Finding the Way."



October 20 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

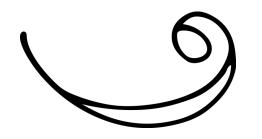
On this weekend of our annual Men's Retreat, Rev. Lacey Hunter, Associate Minister of Faith Formation, preaches a sermon on Luke 18: 1 – 8, "Asking Boldly, Living Justly."

October 27 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost / Reformation Sunday

Today our Chancel Choir shares a celebratory Reformation-era anthem and Pastor Benjamin preaches a sermon on Luke 18: 9 – 14, "No One Stands Alone."



Coming in November... All Saints/Souls Sunday, Gratitude Sunday, Blessing of 5th/6th Grade Our Whole Lives participants, Reign of Christ Sunday, Confirmation Sunday



THE BALCONY VIEW... LEADING THE WAY By Michael Ott, Moderator

At our September meeting, the Leadership Council heard about the preparation for the 2020 pledge drive. 80% of our income comes from financial gifts. Our goal for 2020 is to have at least 150 households pledging \$375,000 to our local church ministry and \$39,000 to our wider mission for a total of \$414,000, a 10% increase over 2019.

Our theme of Leading the Way comes from John 14: 6 – "I am the way, and the truth, and the life". Jesus is heading for Jerusalem and the cross, and the disciples are troubled. They ask Jesus where He is going and how can they know the way. Richard N. Boyce writes that a constant move of Jesus in the Gospel of John is to recognize our fears regarding the future, then asks us to overcome those fears by abiding in Jesus' presence with us now. Jaime Clark-Soles continues the thought. "Our future is secure – and already underway. Jesus is so trustworthy that we can embrace a way of life marked by abiding with God in this world today, because in Jesus we know the truth and have life."

The Leadership Council, trusting in Jesus showing us the way, is committed to generous engagement and participation while leading the way during this pledge season. The pledge drive will open on October 6 with members of the Leadership Council, the ministers, and the Gratitude + Generosity team presenting our pledges. The strength of these pledges will come from trusting that "our future is secure – and already underway." There are plans for the Leadership Council to be available during the pledge drive to answer your questions about how increased pledging will benefit our expanding church ministries, our facility and our staff.

Then comes your turn. The following three weeks will be the congregation's opportunity to lead the

way by committing a pledge. We're all in this together. We can't – and don't want to – do it without you!

https://uccseb.org/ docs/2019-September-Council-Meeting-Minutes.pdf





COMMUNITY CHURCH YOUTH AT CLIMATE STRIKE





BLESS THIS MESS & PRAYER CIRCLE

CALLING ALL PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS! Let's get together and talk.

You: Talk about what?

Me: Let's talk about this new book called "Bless this Mess."

You: Do I need to buy the book?

Me: Only if you want to, or you can just come and be part of the conversation.

You: When is this happening?

Me: All four Sundays in October, 9:00-9:45 am

You: Okay, but where?

Me: In the Fellowship Hall at Community Church.

You: Where do I get the book if I want it?

Me: We asked Copperfields in Sebastopol to stock it. It's probably best to buy local, right? Of course, you can also find it online.

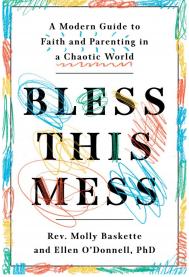
You: What kinds of things will we be talking about?

Me: Here's an outline...

1. Spiritual & Progressive Parenting: Not an Oxymoron

- 2. How to Fight—and Forgive
- 3. Kids & Money and Stuff
- 4. Sabbath: How to Make Every Day Holy

You: I'm in! See you October 6th at 9 am!



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RECAP: Sundays in October, 9-9:45, Fellowship Hall, Group Discussion facilitated by Pastors Rachel and Ben.

PRAYER CIRCLE

We Encircle in Prayer...

All those who are home-bound, including **Evelyn Bishop**, **Connie Blackstone**, **Martha Rowlands**, and **Carmen & Lowell**

Yeager. May God's love surround them, and may they feel the love of our community.

All those recovering from illness, including mental illness. *May they be covered with Christ's mercy and the comfort that they are not alone*.

All those in a season of grief—especially when grief brings mourning, shame, loneliness, and anger. *May they feel the Holy Spirit holding them through all of the feelings, and bring comfort.*

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COMMUNITY CHURCH 130TH ANNIVERSARY

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FACILITIES TEAM & PHOTO DIRECTORY

FACILITIES TEAM HIGHLIGHT

After the fountain sustained damage this spring, the facilities team arranged to have it slightly modified, repaired, and reassembled. It is now back in working order after a hiatus of several months.



CAPTURE MEMORIES FOR A LIFETIME **By Chris Jenkins**

We are partnering with Lifetouch/ Shutterfly for professional photography that will connect our families and there is no obligation to purchase anything. Professional photographers will be at church from November 13-16 photographing all of our families for a new church photo directory.

What to expect:

-A one-hour block to check-in, have your free photography session, view your digital images immediately after, and select which one you would like to have appear in the directory. You will also have an opportunity to purchase any additional photographs or greeting cards at that time.

You will receive:

- -One free 8x10 standard print
- -One free church photo directory

Photo session sign ups will be done in the courtyard after church every Sunday in October and the first two Sundays in November.

Take a moment to sign up for your family photo session! Be included and help make our directory complete.



WHO'S WHO & BIRTHDAYS

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WHO'S WHO IN THE PEW: KATHY MATTHIES

Kathy Matthies is a long-time, dedicated part of the church community. She been in many volunteer roles and has been on many different committees and teams from serving as a youth leader to creating liturgical banners for the sanctuary. If you volunteered at the Apple Pie event, you probably saw Kathy cochairing. She helps keep our commercial kitchen in top form and is often the woman behind the scenes for large church meals. The adult mission trip participants are always fed well with Kathy in the kitchen. Kathy dedicates a lot



of time to changing, creating, and adjusting the liturgical art in the sanctuary, climbing ladders, ironing giant banners, and arranging displays carefully. She led the team that created the giant rainbow flag the congregation used in the Sonoma County Pride Parade

Kathy has been in Sonoma County for 49 years. She grew up in Omaha, Nebraska until her family moved to Fair Oaks, California and then settled in Petaluma. Kathy joined Community Church 31 years ago in 1988 and immediately got involved.

After learning the heartbreaking news that she had a 2% chance of ever conceiving a child, Kathy was overjoyed to go on to have three children, Alicia, Brandon, and Christopher. They learned about public service from their mother and became an EMT/ER Tech, a Police Sargent, and a Firefighter/Paramedic. They all graduated from SRJC and are known there as the 'Public Safety Trifecta'. Kathy has five grandchildren, Caleb, Nolan, Maddie, Grayson, and Owen. Family is one of Kathy's treasures and she loves to spend time with all of them, even celebrating holidays together with her former husband and his wife and all of their children and grandchildren.

Kathy has had a catering business, and still does some catering on the side, but now works at SRJC as the head administrative assistant in the Curriculum and Educational Support Services Department. She volunteers at the college in many ways as well and has served on the Classified Professionals Senate for several years, and is now focusing her efforts on housing-insecure and food-insecure students.

When Kathy isn't working and volunteering, she spends time with friends and family at dinner gatherings and celebrations, loves watching movies and TV shows, and reads a lot. Her love of reading is inspiring her to consider working on a memoir of her own. Kathy says she does art and crafting/sewing as a form of therapy, and couldn't do without it.

You probably didn't know, but likely won't be surprised that at 18, Kathy was named Petaluma's youngest 'Citizen of the Year'.

October Birthdays	ં
Laura Steyn Lynn Deedler Ed Gaylord Spencer Babcock Will Plaugher Justine Farley Patty Foster Annie Nelson Laurie Mitchell Ava Whitehorn Laura Jame Libby Plaugher Linda Roa Jan Sweeney Lori Lapham	
Gloria Given Dakota Blackstone Linda Inman Susanne White Gerri Doody Dianne Moore Birgit Quezada Larry Stallings Elyse Mengle	• •
Nicole Porter Bob Shimetz Helen Sokolis Steve Beck Ben Rasmus Leslie Warren Ann Butterfield Mike Ott	
Maryellen Taylor Emma DelMonte Ethan Trevino Kay Warren Jonah Gonzales Betty Nelson Kate MacKillop	



LAUNCH SUNDAY



On Sunday, September 8, Community Church launched the program year with a celebratory worship service followed by a fun musical procession to Memorial Hall where the church programs had tables showcasing their work. Everyone had the opportunity to find out more about all of the programs happening at Community Church, opportunities to sign up to learn more, try out handbells, play a round of corn hole, and more. The festivities concluded with a shared meal together.



0	EVENTS IN OCTOBER AT COMMUNITY CHURCH ્રિ
October 2	Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am in the Fireside Room
	<i>Personnel Committee,</i> 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room <i>Gratitude & Generosity Team,</i> 6:30 pm in the Fireside Room
	Men's Discussion Group, 7:00 pm in Faith Chapel
October 3	Nominating Committee, 1:30 pm in the Fireside Room
October 5 October 5	Godly Play Training, 9:00 am in Rooms 5, 6, and Faith Chapel
October 6	17 th Sunday After Pentecost, World Communion Sunday
	Associate Minister Pastor-Parish Relations Team, 12:00 pm in the Fireside Room
October 8	Lead Minister Pastor-Parish Relations Team, 4:00 pm in the Fireside Room
October 9	Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am in the Fireside Room
	Facilities Committee, 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room
October 10	Card Writing Ministry, 11:00 am in the Women's Fellowship Office
October 12	Second Saturday Lunch, 11:30 pm in Fellowship Hall
October 13	18 th Sunday After Pentecost, Pledge Drive Kick-Off
	Faith In Action Team, 9:30 am in the Women's Fellowship Office
	Membership Orientation, 11:45 am in the Media Room
	ChilFFAT, 12:00 am in the Youth Lounge
October 14	Mission & Outreach, 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room
October 15	Health & Safety Team, 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room
October 16	Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am in the Fireside Room
	Leadership Council, 6:30 pm in the Media Room
October 18	Men's Retreat, 5:00 pm at St Columba Retreat House
October 20	19 th Sunday After Pentecost
October 21	High School Youth Group, 6:00 pm Youth Lounge
October 21 October 23	<i>Prayer Shawl Group,</i> 10:00 am in the Fireside Room <i>Women's Bible Study,</i> 10:00 am in the Fireside Room
October 23 October 24	Worship Planning Team, 6:00 pm in the Fireside Room
October 24 October 27	20 th Sunday After Pentecost, New Members Join
October 27 October 30	Gratitude & Generosity Calling Night, 6:00 pm in the Fireside Room
	Sundays at 9:00 am—Faith Formation Hour
	 Godly Play, Preschool-5th Grade in Classroom 5 OWL, 5th & 6th grades in Faith Chapel
	 Widdle School Youth, 6th-8th Grade in the
	Youth Lounge
	 Adult Bible Study, Adults in the Fireside Room
	► Eaith & Daronting Discussion Daronts & Grand
Office Hour	s
Monday-Friday, 9:00 am—2:30 pm	

October Staff Schedules October 21— 27 Lacey is away

Coming Up in November November 13-16 **Lifetouch Photography Sessions** Sundays at 10:30 am—Worship in the Sanctuary Tuesdays at 4:00 pm—Handbell Ensemble rehearses in the Sanctuary (beginning August 20) Thursdays at 7:15 pm—Chancel Choir rehearses in the Choir Room (beginning August 22)) Fridays at 10:00 am—Uke Stars meet in Fellowship Hall The Community Church 1000 Gravenstein Hwy North Sebastopol CA 95472





COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

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